



Midwestern States: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Wisconsin

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REGIONAL EVENTS

“Gateway to the West”. There are a wide variety of accessible records, online indexes and images for the Midwest states. Midwest is a “melting pot” immigrants came from France, England, Canada, Germany, and Scandinavian countries. Migration from within the United States from states Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New England, Southern states, and Midwestern states. Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois part of the Industrial area of the North in 1850’s.

Fur traders French, and English

Midwest – ‘Bread Basket / Bible Belt

CENSUS RECORD

Federal

Illinois 1820 -1940, Indiana 1820-1940, Iowa 1850-1940, Michigan 1830-1940, Minnesota 1850-1940, Missouri 1830-1940, Ohio 1800-1940, Wisconsin 1820-1940

Slave Schedules Missouri 1850 and 1860

State census schedules contain valuable genealogical data. Fortunately, most of the Midwestern States took state censuses. They were often taken in years between federal censuses.

Not all censuses schedules have survived. In some cases, only a partial census of the state was taken. These censuses vary in form and content. Many state censuses are available with indexes and images online at FamilySearch.org or Ancestry.com.

To see which censuses are available at the Family History Library (and for which years), see *State Census Register* HL 973 X23us v.1-3.

- Indiana School Census 1843-1932 FHL 1st film 1,514,224
- Ohio many Quadrennial census take every four years, 1887-1907 – Males over 21 years of age.

VITAL RECORDS

Most Midwestern states did not begin statewide registration of vital records until the early part of the twentieth century. However, early vital events were often recorded at the county level. Most counties have recorded marriages since the formation of the county. To locate vital records at the FHL search the FHLC by county or state to determine the Library's holdings.

STATE	BIRTH	MARRIAGE	DEATH
Illinois	1916	County Origin	1916
Indiana	1907	County Origin	1899
Iowa	1880	County Origin	1891
Michigan	1867	County Origin	1867
Minnesota	1900	County Origin	1908
Missouri	1863	County Origin	1863
Ohio	1908	County Origin	1908
Wisconsin	1907	County Origin	1907

Vital records indexes and images may be found on the large databases.

CHURCH RECORDS

There are a wide variety of different religious groups who settled in the Midwest, often in settlement "pockets." These include Catholics, Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Quakers, Disciples of Christ, Congregationalists, Baptists, and United Brethren. In 1900 there were 250-300 denominations.

Marriage records may provide the name of the local minister. Use county histories or city directories to find out the minister's church affiliation.

The Family History Library (FHL) has copies of many microfilmed church materials. Check both the city and county jurisdictional levels when searching the catalog. For resources not available at the FHL, try contacting the church your ancestors attended. Some larger denominations have gathered their records into one centralized church archives, some of which are listed below:

- Archives of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America <http://archive.elca.org/archives/>
- Friends Historical Library <http://www.swarthmore.edu/x6662.xml>
- Presbyterian Historical Society <http://www.history.pcusa.org/>

LAND AND PROPERTY

The Midwest was the first area of the United States primarily settled under the Federal Land system when most land was considered to be "public domain." This means that most original settlers bought their land directly from the Federal Government. Check the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Patent Search at www.glorecords.blm.gov (use % for wildcard). Original land entry cases are kept by the National Archives.

County level deeds are also sources of rich information. Search for the county in the FHLC to locate deeds on microfilm in the FHL. Remember to look through both grantor (individual(s) selling the land) and grantor (individual(s) buying the land) indexes.

Public Domain States: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi

State Land States: Georgia and Texas

Government to person, Homestead (1862), Bounty Land: Illinois, Missouri, and Ohio,.

General Land office records, www.glorerecords.blm.gov

- **Illinois**
 - War of 1812 bounty lands FHL book 977.3 r2w, film 1,035,624 item 7 or fiche 6,051,272
- **Indiana**
 - *Indian source Book*. by Willard Heiss. FHL 977.2 d29h 10 volumes – digitized
- **Iowa**
 - *Century Farms Applications* FHL film 1,023,895
- **Michigan**
 - Michigan cash and homestead entries pre -1800. FHL cd 22 and ancestry.com
 - *First Land Owners*. By State Archives of Michigan
- **Minnesota**
 - 1790-1907 brows able collection FHLC
 - Homestead and Cash Entry Patents, Pre 1908; Ancestry
- **Missouri**
 - Missouri digital heritage land patents, 1831-19969
 - Missouri military land warrants, war of 1812 by Maxine Dunaway FHL 977.8 r2d
 - Military Land Warrants in Missouri, 1819; FHL 977.8 R2ml
- **Ohio**
 - Ohio Land 1790-1905 FHL cd #40
- **Wisconsin**
 - 1820-1908 cash, homestead, FHL cd 38 and ancestry

PROBATE RECORDS

A last will and testament along with other probate records are extremely useful for family history research. They can provide evidence about people, places, time periods, and relationships. They exist even when other primary sources do not.

The types of records vary from state to state but generally contain wills, letters of administration, inventory, court proceedings, and guardianship records.

Coverage of Probate Records

- Probate records predate the U.S. Constitution
- They are used in all states of the Union

- They exist for time periods when few other records are available
- Much of the population either left a will or was mentioned in one

Types of Probate Records

- Testate files for those with a last will and testament
- Intestate files for those without a will
- Guardianship files for minor children
- - **Illinois**
 - 1772-1999 Wills and Probate Records. Ancestry.com
 - 1819-1988 Probate Records FS index – on line
 - **Indiana**
 - 1797-1999 Wills and Probate records Ancestry
 - Early-1880 Index to Indiana Wills Ancestry and FHL 977.2 P22f
 - **Iowa**
 - 1758-1997 Wills and Probate Records Ancestry
 - **Michigan**
 - 1797-1973 Probate Records FS
 - 1784-1980 Will and Probate Records
 - **Minnesota**
 - 1849-1985 Probate records FSLC
 - **Missouri**
 - 1750-1998 Probate records FS
 - **Ohio**
 - 1789-1996 Probate Records FS
 - **Wisconsin**
 - 1848-19948 Probate Estate Files FS

COLLECTIONS UNIQUE TO THE MIDWEST

COUNTY HISTORIES AND BIOGRAPHIES

County histories can be very rich in family information. A high percentage of county histories (especially for those in the Midwest) have a biographical section.

- Notice general areas such as “Churches,” “Early Pioneers,” “County Officers,” etc.
- Used with marriage records, **county histories** can indicate which church a minister (MG) served.
- Used with deeds, probate, etc., **county histories** can help you learn where neighbors or friends came from, or if they are relatives or in-laws

TERRITORIAL RECORDS

Territorial papers of us vo. 2, 3, & 7 pertain to the territory northwest of the river Ohio 17878-1803 FHL first film 1,421,059

- **Indiana** Vol 16 & 17 FHL films 929,380
- **Illinois** 1838-1852 FHL films 1,601,629-730

- **Michigan** FHL films 929,382-83
- **Missouri** FHL films 874,230-31
- **Minnesota** FHL first film 1,695,152 of 11
- **Wisconsin** FHL first film 1,601,731 of 122

DRAPER MANUSCRIPTS / COLLECTION

LYMAN COPELAND DRAPER (1815-1891) traveled extensively through the “Trans-Allegheny West” (which included the western parts of Virginia and North and South Carolina, parts of Georgia and Alabama, the Ohio River Valley, and the Mississippi River Valley) for the purpose of collecting stories about pioneers and publishing biographical sketches. Though Draper never published his intended works, his manuscript collection (composed of almost 500 volumes) contains a great deal of information about early settlers.

Though no true index to the Draper Manuscripts exists, check out the *Guide to the Draper Manuscripts* (977.583/M1 A3h). The FHL has microfilmed copies of the entire manuscript collection (starting on FHL microfilm 889,097).

Biographies and County Histories

REPOSITORIES AND SOCIETIES

Federal: National Archives and Record Centers, Central Plains – Kansas City, MO. Great Lakes Region – Chicago, IL

Region: Mid Content public Library - Independence, MO

State Repositories: State Archive, Libraries, and University Historical and Genealogical Societies

- Illinois Regional Archives Division
- Indiana Commission of Public Records
- Iowa – two State historical Societies De Moines and Iowa City
- Michigan Regional Depository Archives
- Minnesota Regional Research Centers
- Missouri Mid Continent Public Library
- Ohio Network of American History Research Centers and Western Reserve Historical Society- Cleveland
- Wisconsin- Area Research Centers

Courthouses

County Archives

County, City, or Town **Libraries**

Churches

Cemeteries

FAMILYSEARCH HISTORICAL RECORDS

FAMILYSEARCH RESEARCH WIKI

HOW DO YOU FIND RESOURCES?

- On the FHLC, do a place search for both the city/town and the county.
- Check the Internet:
 - Search for university, state, county, and city library websites and catalogs
 - Search for state and county genealogy and historical society websites
 - Search for state and/or county archives
 - Check for resources on Ancestry.com, HeritageQuestOnline.com, and beta.FamilySearch.org
- For more information on available records, record types, and how to find them, check the **FamilySearch Wiki** at wiki.familysearch.org.

PERIODICALS

- *The Tri State Packet* 977 D25t
- *Midwestern Heritage* 973 B2mw
- *Midwestern Genealogy* 977.2 D25m
- *Tri State Trader* 973 B2ts

State Periodicals

- **Illinois:** *Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly*, *Illinois Historical Journal*, *The Circuit Rider*, *Prairie Roots*
- **Indiana:** *The Hoosier Genealogist*, *Indian Magazine of History*, *Indiana Genealogist*, *The Vine*
- **Iowa:** *Annals of Iowa*, *Iowa Journal of History*, *Hawkeye Heritage*, *The Cedar Tree*
- **Michigan:** *The Detroit Society for Genealogical Research Magazine*, *Michigana*, *Michigan Heritage*, *Family Trails*
- **Minnesota:** *The Minnesota Genealogist*, *Minnesota History*, *Prairieland Pioneer*, *Scandinavian Saga*
- **Missouri:** *Missouri Historical Review*, *Missouri Genealogical Association Journal*, *Missouri Miscellany*, *Missouri Pioneers*
- **Ohio:** *Ohio History*, *The Report*, *Ohio Records and Pioneer Families*, *Gateway to the West*, *The Firelands Pioneer*
- **Wisconsin:** *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, *Wisconsin Families*, *Genealogy Gems*

RECORDS NOT ONLINE

Familysearch catalog

Familysearch wiki

County courthouses

Libraries and archives

Societies

#USGenealogy

#FamilyHistoryLibrary

#FHLUSSeminar